

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DOTE-00

FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-04 OES-06 EUR-12 /060 W

----- 003878

R 091410Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4597

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0490

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, EMIN, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: US BUSINESS INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICA CHROME ORE EXPORT
SITUATION

REF: A) STATE 83704 B) PREOTIA 1635

1. MINERALS OFFICER SWEETWOOD CONTACTED INSPECTING
ENGINEER FOR HARBORS, N.P. CAMPBELL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL MANAGER (OPERATING), E.W.
KIRSTEN, SARH, APRIL 9 TO RAISE QUESTIONS ON RAILWAYS'
PLANNING FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE SHIPMENTS AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FORESEEN AT MAPUTO, IF ANY, SHOULD
PORTUGUESE HARBOR PILOTS LEAVE "THIS SUMMER"(REF A).

2. CAMPBELL STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT "FOR POLITICAL
REASONS AT LEAST" EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO "CONTINUE
TO ASSURE SAFE AND UNINTERRUPTED" MOVEMENT OF CHROME ORE
TRAINS FROM THE TRANSVAAL THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE TO THE PORT
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OF MAPUTO. HE NOTED THAT RAIL MOVEMENT IS CURRENTLY

"NEARLY NORMAL" ACROSS THE BORDER, BUT SAID HE IS "NOT SURE AT THE MOMENT" IF THE ORE BEING LOADED ON BOARD SHIP ON SCHEDULE. AS TO THE LATTER, CAMPBELL CLAIMED THAT HIS OFFICE IS PRESENTLY LOOKING SERIOUSLY INTO REPORTED MAPUTO PORT LOADING DELAYS AND, IF THEY EXIST, WILL USE "ALL POSSIBLE INFLUENCE" TO REDUCE EACH TO A MINIMUM -- "NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

3. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH OUR INQUIRIES ON CONTINGENCY ROUTING PLANS (E.G. DURBAN, PORT ELIZABETH OR EAST LONDON) AND PORTUGUESE PILOTS, CAMPBELL DEFERRED TO KIRSTEN (PARA 1, ABOVE) ON POLICY GROUNDS. KIRSTEN AGREED TO REPLY TO BOTH QUESTIONS AFTER CONFERRING WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE SARH OFFICIALS. WE ANTICIPATE AN EARLY RESPONSE AND WILL REPORT FURTHER WITHOUT DELAY.
JOHNSON

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